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The following measures may be voted on by the House on Monday, July 17:

**H.R. 3125 — INTERNET GAMBLING PROHIBITION ACT**

**Please refer to the CATs Policy Brief on this bill.**

**H.R. 4437 — SEMIPOSTAL AUTHORIZATION ACT**

**Cost to Taxpayers:** Administrative costs for running the semipostal program will be paid in a manner determined by the Postal Service. The reports required by the General Accounting Office and by each federal agency which receives funds from the sale of semipostals might result in additional federal discretionary spending, however, such amounts would be minimal.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** The bill authorizes the Postal Service to issue and sell postage stamps which are sold at a premium in order to provide funding for a particular area of medical research. Stamps would be sold at a maximum of their regular postage rate plus 25%. Funds raised from the sale of semipostals would be transferred, without further action from Congress, to the federal agency or agencies designated by the Postal Service. The bill also extends the Breast Cancer Research Semipostal.

**Constitutional Authority:** None cited.

**Areas of Concern:** Semipostals have the potential to raise substantial amounts of money for federal agencies. In just the past two years, the semipostal for breast cancer research has raised \$12 million. Since these funds are provided directly to federal agencies, they might be used to fund research or other activities that the agency is prohibited from funding using appropriated funds. While agencies that receive funds from the sale of semipostals must submit to Congress a report on how those funds were used, such reports would be after the fact.

**H.R. 728 — The Small Watershed Rehabilitation Amendments of 1999**

As Modified for Floor Consideration

**Cost to Taxpayer:** While a CBO estimate is not available for the modified bill, the legislation authorizes \$215 million over the next five fiscal years.

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** Yes, the bill creates two new federal programs designed to rehabilitate dams previously constructed under federal programs. The first program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, would provide financial assistance to local organizations for up to 65% of the total rehabilitation costs. As a condition of financial assistance, the

Secretary of Agriculture may require that local units of government implement “proper zoning or other developmental regulations” in the watershed in which the rehabilitation is to take place. The second program, administered by the Secretary of the Army, also provides up to 65% of the costs of rehabilitating certain dams.

**Constitutional Authority:** The Committee cites Article I, Section 8, but does not cite a specific authority.

**Areas of Concern:** There may be some concern regarding the ability of the Secretary of Agriculture to require the adoption of specific local zoning ordinances as a condition of the receipt of federal funds.

## **H.RES. 534--REGARDING SECURITY FAILURES AT LOS ALAMOS**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None, Sense of House Resolution

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the resolution.

**Summary:** The resolution expresses the sense of the House that:

(1) the security failures at Los Alamos National Laboratory, demonstrate the continued inadequacy of nuclear weapons security policy and procedures within the National Nuclear Security Administration and at facilities of the Administration;

(2) individuals responsible for the implementation, oversight, and management of nuclear weapons security policy and procedures within the Administration and its facilities must be held accountable for their performance; and

(3) the Administrator for Nuclear Security must take immediate action to improve procedures for the safeguarding of classified nuclear weapons information and correct all identified nuclear weapons security deficiencies within the Administration.

## **H.RES. 531--REGARDING 1994 ATTACK ON JEWISH CENTER IN ARGENTINA**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None, Sense of House Resolution

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** The resolution encourages the President to raise this issue in bilateral discussions with Argentine officials and to underscore US concern regarding the 6-year delay in the resolution of this case, and encourages the President to direct US law enforcement agencies to provide "support and cooperation to the Government of Argentina, if requested, for purposes of the investigation into this bombing and terrorist activities in the tri-border area."

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the resolution.

**Summary:** The resolution expresses the sense of the House that the United States condemns the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires. It further states that circumstantial evidence attributes the attack to the terrorist group Hezbollah, based in Lebanon

and sponsored by Iran; that the bombing may have been carried out with the assistance of the Argentine security forces, some of which are reported to be sympathetic to anti-Semitic positions and to have participated in the desecration of Jewish cemeteries in recent years; that in the 6 years since the bombing the involvement of these Argentine security elements has been downplayed; and that the failure to punish the culprits serves merely to reward these terrorists and help spread terrorism throughout the Western Hemisphere.

## **H.CON.RES. 319--REGARDING LATVIA'S INDEPENDENCE FROM THE FORMER SOVIET UNION**

**Cost to the Taxpayer:** None, Sense of House Resolution

**Does the Bill Create New Government Programs or Regulations:** No.

**Constitutional Authority:** No Committee report was filed, and no authority is cited in the resolution.

**Summary:** The resolution expresses the sense of the House that the Republic of Latvia's declaration of independence in 1990 contributed to the disintegration of the Soviet Union; that Latvia has successfully built democracy, passed legislation on "human and minority rights," ensured the rule of law, developed a free-market economy; and has made a significant contribution toward "international peace and stability" by its participation in NATO-led peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and Kosovo. The resolution congratulates Latvia on the 10th anniversary of its independence and commends the country for its political and economic reforms "which may further speed the process of that country's integration into European and Western institutions."

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*The views expressed in this Legislative Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the  
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The Conservative Action Team is a Congressional Member Organization of over 50 Republican House Members and is chaired by Representative John Shadegg (R-AZ).